

Building Partnerships Breakout Session

Best Practices & Lessons Learned

- When and where appropriate, attempt to incorporate Federal agencies
- When developing an interoperability solution, governance and planning are the initial issues that should be addressed
- It is easier to build consensus/partnerships among the agencies within your county, but difficult to partner with neighboring counties
- When partnering for interoperability solutions, it is important to sign agreements and/or Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)
- Communications plan and training requirements development are vital parts of the partnerships process
- Allow partner agencies to take ownership and provide input for a solution
- Conduct/facilitate monthly meetings to allow potential partner agencies to be involved in discussions regarding solution capabilities and training requirements
- Attempt to remove County/City/Federal politics in order to seek partner agencies
- To avoid political battles, attempt to “stay under the radar” and focus on solution requirements
- Conduct outreach efforts to inform agencies of interoperability capabilities
- Leverage existing regional governance structures or committees
- Ensure potential partner agencies have sound, reliable systems
- Know where/when to draw the line for defining “regional” and which entities to include
- Allow a project “champion” to sell ideas to politicians and inform them of the benefits to their constituents

- Seek partnerships on all levels of government